

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion and in view of the present amendment, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, and 7 have been amended. Support for the claims as amended can be found in the specification at page 21, lines 11-31. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-13, 15-18, 20-23, 25-29, and 32-34 are pending and under consideration.

Applicants have timely filed a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) along with this Amendment, including the filing fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the finality of any Office action and enter this Amendment for consideration under 37 CFR 1.114.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, at pages 2-5, claims 1, 3-8, 10-13, 15-18, 20-23, 25-29, and 32-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollon (U.S. Patent No. 5,768,164) in view of Yutaka et al. (JP 09026832).

Neither Hollon nor Yutaka et al., alone or in combination, discuss or suggest:

codes that are output as a result of an operation of each of the plurality of buttons correspond to instructions for each of the plurality of buttons and the instructions differ depending on the operation mode of the electronic apparatus,

as recited in amended claim 1. In other words, the invention of claim 1 provides for each of the plurality of buttons to output a code that corresponds to an instruction, wherein each of the instructions differs depending on an operation mode of the electronic apparatus. These features are not taught by the combination of Hollon nor Yutaka et al.

Since neither Hollon nor Yutaka et al., alone or in combination, discuss or suggest all of the features of claim 1, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the references relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-4, 10-13, 27, and 32-33 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and include all the features of claim 1, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the references relied upon. Therefore, claims 3, 4, 10-13, 24, and 27 patentably distinguish over the references relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

Neither Hollon nor Yutaka et al., alone or in combination, discuss or suggest:

codes that are output as a result of an operation of each of the plurality of buttons correspond to instructions for each of the plurality of buttons and the instructions differ depending on the operation mode of the electronic apparatus,

as recited in claim 5. Therefore, claim 5 patentably distinguishes over the references relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 15-18, 25, and 28 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 5 and include all the features of claim 5, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the references relied upon. Therefore, claims 6, 15-18, 25, and 28 patentably distinguish over the references relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

Neither Hollon nor Yutaka et al., alone or in combination, discuss or suggest:

codes that are output as a result of an operation of each of the plurality of buttons correspond to instructions for each of the plurality of buttons and the instructions differ depending on the operation mode of the electronic apparatus,

as recited in claim 7. Therefore, claim 7 patentably distinguishes over the references relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 8, 20-23, 26, 29, and 34 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 7 and include all the features of claim 7, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the references relied upon. Therefore, claims 8, 20-23, 26, and 29 patentably distinguish over the references relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

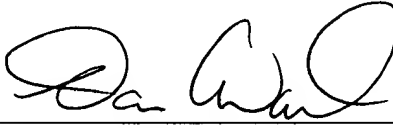
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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